

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8063
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AMEMBASSY LISBON
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UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0101

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: NATO, PORG, IC
SUBJECT: COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENTS IN NATO COUNTRIES

1. ON JANUARY 18 ICELAND'S LEADING DAILY NEWSPAPER MORGUN-BLADID PRINTED NEWS ARTICLE BASED ON ASSOCIATED PRESS ITEM CONCERNING PROSPECTS OF COMMUNISTS COMING INTO THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AND POSSIBLE REACTION TO NATO AUTHORITIES TO SUCH AN EVENTUALITY. ARTICLE NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS IN ICELAND AND PORTUGAL IN THE PAST BUT NEITHER PORTUGAL NOR ICELAND HAD MUCH INFLUENCE ON NATO DEFENSES AND ICELAND HAD NO MILITARY FORCE. NATO REACTION TO THESE GOVERNMENTS, THE ARTICLE NOTED, WAS THAT "VARIOUS SECRET DOCUMENTS WHICH WERE DISTRIBUTED TO MEMBER COUNTRIES WERE NOT DISTRIBUTED TO ICELAND AND PORTUGAL."

2. WHEN MORGUNBLADID ASKED ICELANDIC FOREIGN MINISTER EINAR AGUSTSSON FOR HIS COMMENT ON ARTICLE, AGUSTSSON REPORTEDLY REPLIED: "I WAS NEVER AWARE OF ANYTHING BEING KEPT A SECRET FROM US IN THIS CONNECTION, AND THINK IT VERY UNLIKELY THAT THIS HAS BEEN THE CASE. I
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FIND THIS VERY STRANGE, BUT PERHAPS THE WRITER OF THIS ITEM KNOWS MORE ABOUT THIS MATTER THAN I."

3. COMMENT: AGUSTSSON, WHO WAS FOREIGN MINISTER IN "LEFTIST GOVERNMENT" IN ICELAND IN 1971-1974, CONTINUED AS SUCH IN ITS PRO-NATO CENTRIST SUCCESSOR WHICH IS CURRENTLY IN POWER.

BLAKE

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NNN

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